FDI equity inflows during the last 3 years were US$ 11.4 billion. FDI equity inflows into India have registered an average growth of 47% during this period. This figure is exclusive of reinvested earnings.

(d) Electrical Equipment (including Software & Electronics), Service Sector, Telecommunications, Transportation Industry and Chemicals (Other than fertilizers) are the top five sectors which have received maximum FDI inflows during January 2003 to April 2006.

Amendment to SEZ Act, 2005 from Maharashtra

182. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has forwarded any proposal for amendment to Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 to meet their local requirements; and

(b) if so, when it was forwarded and by when it is to be placed before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has not proposed any amendments to the Central Government's Special Economic Zones Act, 2005.

(b) Does not arise.

Pan-Asian Free Trade Area

183. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to form a Pan-Asian Free Trade Area or Asian Economic Community to exploit its potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this will help to strengthen the bilateral engagement with Bangladesh, China and Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As a follow up to the 'Look East Policy', the Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his address to the first East Asia Summit held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005, highlighted the need for a Pan-Asian Free Trade Agreement and Asian Economic Community for deeper regional economic integration. No specific response has emerged from the other regional countries in this regard.

(c) Such initiatives will have a positive effect on our bilateral trade and economic relations with our regional trading partners.

Establishment of SEZs

184. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a number of Special Economic Zones in different parts of the country in response to the request of various State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with the number of SEZs already set up and those proposed to be set up under the plan;

(c) the response from the trading community to the proposal;

(d) whether corporate entities are demanding amendments to the labour laws so as to make it responsive to the liberalized industrial and trading environment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Centre's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to establish any new Special Economic Zone (SEZ) by the Central Government. 28 SEZs, including 7 converted Export Processing Zones (EPZs) owned by the Central Government, are already operational. In addition, 95 SEZs are in the pipeline.